

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 11-14 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 15 and 16 have been cancelled in this reply. Claim 11 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-14 are allowed. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thagard, U.S. Patent No. 6,356,031, in view of Frischknecht, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0135268. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thagard in view of Frischknecht, and further in view of Hashimoto, U.S. Patent No. 4,963,196. Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0119401, in view of Frischknecht. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Frischknecht, and further in view of Kondo, U.S. Patent No. 5,828,117. Claims 1, 3-6 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minamitani, JP 409054479, in view of Frischknecht. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Since all claims except for allowed claims 11-14 have been cancelled to expedite the patent prosecution, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee is attached herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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